



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett
Southern District of Indiana**



MARION COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TERRY R. CURRY, PROSECUTOR
251 E. OHIO ST., SUITE 160
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204
PHONE (317) 327-3522 • FAX (317) 327-3531

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, March 3, 2011
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ins/>

CONTACT: MARY BIPPUS
(317) 229-2403
mary.bippus@usdoj.gov
LARA BECK
(317) 727-0016
lara.beck@indy.gov

HEAVILY ARMED INDIANAPOLIS DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION DISMANTLED

27 firearms taken off the streets

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, the United States Attorney, and Terry Curry, Marion County Prosecutor, announced today the dismantling of a heavily armed Indianapolis drug trafficking organization operating primarily in the Indianapolis area. On March 1, 2011, in a series of arrests and seizures in Marion and Hamilton Counties, agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration along with members of the Metro Drug Task Force seized 27 firearms, approximately three pounds of methamphetamine and \$33,950.00 in United States currency. Among the firearms seized were 9mm assault pistols, SKS type assault rifles, and a 9mm MAC 10 along with hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

Six individuals were charged in a federal complaint and two individuals were arrested on state charges. Four children, including an infant, also were taken into custody by Child

Protective Services. These charges are the result of a two month investigation led by the Metro Drug Task Force and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The federal complaint charged six individuals as follows with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine:

- (1) Ricardo Diaz, 32, Mexico;
- (2) Irma Lorena Escalera-Avalos, 34, Mexico;
- (3) Miguel Martinez, 20, Mexico;
- (4) Leodegario Martinez-Rios, 38, Mexico;
- (5) Daniel Sandoval, 41, Mexico;
- (6) Alondra Villa, 27, Indianapolis.

In the course of the investigation law enforcement obtained a consent to search a storage unit on Britton Park Drive in Fishers, Ind. and a residence in Fishers. During the search of the storage locker agents recovered two 9mm assault pistols, three SKS type assault rifles, two revolvers, ammunition, and magazines. At the search of the residence in Fishers, agents recovered a loaded Mac 12 .380, a loaded Taurus .380, a loaded Smith and Wesson 9mm, ammunition, magazines, large amounts of packaging materials, heat sealers, digital scales, approximately 2 lbs. of methamphetamine, and approximately \$4,000.00 United States Currency.

United States Attorney Hogsett said, "as I have said before, I've grown weary of people talking about guns and drugs. The time for talking about the problem is over. Today, Prosecutor Curry and I begin the process of holding people accountable for the unacceptable choices that they have made."

Two individuals were arrested and will be charged with possession of cocaine, possession of cocaine with a firearm, possession of methamphetamine and possession of marijuana:

- (1) Eleazar Archuleta, 42;
- (2) Elena Garcia, 27.

"I commend the excellent work of the Metro Drug Task Force for stopping the flow of drugs by these traffickers," said Prosecutor Curry. "There are more guns and drugs off the streets today because a cooperative effort among federal and local law enforcement officers. We will vigorously prosecute this case to its conclusion."

According to Assistant U. S. Attorney Barry D. Glickman, who is prosecuting the case for the government, most of the defendants, if convicted, face possible 10 year minimum mandatory prison sentences. Rick Frank, Marion County Deputy Prosecutor and MDTF Director, plans to file official charges by early next week against the two state defendants. The penalty range for the C-Felony charges is a 2-8 year prison sentence. They are currently being held on \$20,000 bond and an immigration hold.

The investigation was conducted by members of the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Metro Drug Task Force. The task force is a multi-agency narcotics unit which is funded in part by a grant from the Department of Justice, as well as its member agencies, which include:

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department
Marion County Prosecutor's Office
Carmel Police Department
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
Hancock County Sheriff's Office
City of Lawrence Police Department

A criminal complaint is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

###

Diaz.20110303.wpd